



EI-2544
CD

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

State Historic Preservation Office

September 15, 2006

Mr. Sidney Strickland
Sidney Strickland & Associates
3050 K Street NW, Suite 101
Washington, D.C. 20007-5108

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 438X)
BNSF Railway to abandon .58 mile of railroad between milepost 113.44 and
milepost 114.02 near Camp Ripley
Morrison County
SHPO Number: 2006-0687

Dear Mr. Strickland:

We wrote you on 26 April 2006 regarding the above referenced project. You replied to our office on 5 May 2006. We failed to provide a response to that letter; we are writing now to do so.

Your correspondence references previous review consultation between our office and the Federal Highway Administration/Minnesota Department of Transportation with regard to work on Trunk Highway 371. However, there is some problem in your interpretation of the documents attached to your letter.

The April 2002 Memorandum of Agreement (Attachment No. 1) pertains to a segment of TH 371 from 0.5 miles north of CSAH 48 to south of St. Anthony Road. This road project had an adverse effect on a portion of the Brainerd Branch Line of the Northern Pacific Railroad.


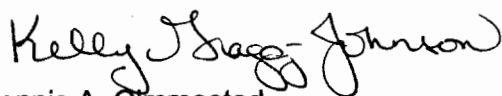
The July 24, 2003 letter from MnDOT to our office pertains to a different highway project, also on TH 371. This segment runs from just north of CSAH 48 south to the TH 10 interchange in Little Falls. A different portion of the Brainerd Branch Line of the Northern Pacific Railroad was located in the area of this project, but the project had no effect on it. The April 2002 Memorandum of Agreement does not cover this project.

It would appear that your abandonment pertains to a section of the eligible railroad line that was located in the second highway project area, as explained above. Therefore, the mitigation proposed in the agreement for the first highway project area, as explained above, does not pertain to the portion of the railroad line of your abandonment.

Notwithstanding all of the above, we considered the effects of your proposed abandonment. This abandonment may indeed have an adverse effect on a portion of the line that was not affected by the highway projects. However, considering the length of the abandonment, the effects of the highway project on another portion of the line to the north, and the mitigation stipulated for the effects of that project, we do not believe that any mitigation measures for the .58 mile abandonment are needed.

We realize that these comments are submitted several months after your last communication, but it seemed important to clarify, for the record, in case any future questions arise about the conclusion of the STB's Section 106 review. Contact me at 651-205-4205 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Dennis A. Gimmestad
Government Programs & Compliance Officer

cc: Victoria Rutsen, STB